

**Air Force Prime Time**, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs this Thursday evening at 8:55 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition, a historical walk through Ramstein Air Base, which came first – Ramstein AB or Landstuhl AB, the 1988 Flugtag disaster, Ramstein AB's future and more.



## News briefs

### Court-martial

An airman from the 23rd Fighter Squadron was found guilty in a general court-martial Feb. 1 and sentenced to six-months confinement, reduction to airman first class and a reprimand.

The airman pleaded guilty and sentenced by a jury for attempting to commit indecent acts upon a female less than 16 years of age.

### Medical emergencies

To call an ambulance for medical emergencies, dial DSN 116 or 453-3456. The commercial number is 06565-61116. Off-base residents should call 19-222, the Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, for medical emergency services.

### Munitions customers

The munitions storage area suspends all routine munitions transactions March 1-16 for stockpile inventory. Munitions must be scheduled for pick up and all turn ins delivered by Thursday.

During the inventory, only valid emergency requests approved by the logistics group commander and submitted in accordance with applicable directives will be honored. Call Tech. Sgt. Robert Keyser at 452-6743 for more information.

### Automotive testing

The deadline to register for the automotive service excellence exam is Feb. 16. Testing takes place May 7 and 9. Call Gregory Willis at 452-6063 for details.

### Awards banquet

The 52nd Fighter Wing annual awards banquet takes place Feb. 24 in the

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# Eifel Times

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Feb. 9, 2001



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

### Awarded for courage

Gen. Gregory Martin, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, pins the Airman's Medal on Master Sgt. Michael Kirsch, 22nd Fighter Squadron first sergeant, for his role in helping save a severely wounded man off-base in July. The presentation took place in the base theater Wednesday.

## Wing aims for 'excellence'

By 1st Lt. Angela Johnson  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Inspectors from the Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Team visit Spangdahlem today through Tuesday to see first-hand how Team Eifel rates against the best in the Air Force.

Spangdahlem Air Base is one of the three finalists competing for this year's Installation Excellence Award; against Kadena Air Base, Japan and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, said Maj. Brad Hebing, 52nd Fighter Wing IEA project officer. "We're competing for the chance to be named the best in the Air Force and if we win, we'll take home \$1 million for the wing to use on quality-of-life improvements."

This award is presented to the base whose people produce

the highest overall return from available resources in fulfilling the mission. This past year, Team Eifel has distinguished itself with outstanding performances, base-wide improvements and award-winning people and programs.

"We are guaranteed \$500,000 for being named an Air Force finalist," said Hebing. "Winning the title would just be a great way to celebrate what the people of Team Eifel have accomplished."

The award team will be using various criteria to grade the base. According to Hebing, they will evaluate how Team Eifel improved the work environment and physical plant, improved quality of life, enhanced productivity, increased customer

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## AF personnel deputy visits Spang to 'Spread the Word'

### Officials bolster incentive programs to increase retention

Compiled from staff reports

Retention was among the hot topics covered by the Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel during "Spread the Word" briefings at Spangdahlem Air Base Jan. 31.

Lt. Gen. Don Peterson attributes much of the troubles with retention and recruiting to a never seen before push-pull effect resulting from civilian sector demand on skilled employees and high operations tempo.

"We have a high-quality force," Peterson said. "What a tough problem to have. It's great for the Air Force, but as a result, it creates a demand for our people by the civilian sector."

A demand of which the service has never

seen, he said. "There's always been either a pull factor from outside the force or a push factor from within, but never at the same time nor as great a pull as today."

To illustrate his point, Peterson shared a conversation another Air Force general officer recently had with an executive from a civilian company while on a commercial flight.

Upon learning the man seated next to him was an Air Force officer, the executive told him he'd take everyone the officer will give. When asked why, the executive explained former military members come to work early, leave late, are loyal, complete a six-week task in six days, build teams and lead people.

"They (civilian employers) know we have the best trained, best educated people who are

dedicated and experienced leaders," Peterson said. "You're in high demand."

To combat a first-term retention rate of 56 percent and 70 percent for second-term airmen, the Air Force is aggressively taking steps to retain its people by:

- Increasing selective re-enlistment bonus and special pay programs.

- Increasing promotion rates. Promotion rates last year hit an all-time high in some grades and Peterson feels overall the rates will remain good this year.

"While we're filling positions vacated during the drawdown years we also managed to increase our authorizations," he explained. "As a result, we improved (promotion) opportunities for our folks. We also increased pin-on time for officers."

- Implementing liberal high-year tenure waiver policy.

- Establishing full-time career assistance advisors.

"These are excellent role models," he said. "They aren't counselors, that's the job of first-line supervisors. Instead, they provide the force information for them to use in their role as supervisors."

Nearly a dozen more improvements being made by the Air Force are designed to aid retention.

At the legislative level, strides are being made in the areas of retention bonuses for critical skills, compensation for OPTEMPO and reimbursement for expenses for canceled leave during contingencies, Peterson said.

## Excellence

Continued from Page 1

service and satisfaction, encouraged communication, promoted unit cohesiveness and promoted environmental safety, compliance and stewardship.

Throughout the past year, the 52nd Fighter Wing deployed worldwide including two major Air Expeditionary Force deployments to Operation Southern Watch. Additionally, the wing took part in two weapons training deployments to Slovakia, and deployments to countries like Romania, Mozambique, Norway, Turkey and Italy along with many other national, international and command tasks.

### Home improvements

At home, Team Eifel vastly improved infrastructure and programs, including implementing the \$20 million construction program for the Rhein-Main Transition Program. Team Eifel also completed \$12 million in housing renovations and renovations to the air control tower's fire suppression system totaling \$250,000.

The taxi-track restoration project required teamwork among Team Eifel, host nation construction agents and contractors in completing a \$15 million program under budget. A new \$493,000 Mobility Processing Center was also opened and 141 self-help projects helped transform base and improve morale among troops.

One of the largest quality-of-life improvements was the new Jet Blast Inn, the base's newest dining facility, which now allows sortie generation experts to enjoy hot food in their own backyard.

The wing chapel also improved quality of life by dedicating \$19,000 toward a multimedia system, providing deployed and remote members the opportunity to practice their faith, regardless of the deployed location.

The base's Network Control Center enhances everyone's productivity with the



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios  
**Gen. Gregory Martin, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, presents Brig. Gen. Don Hoffman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, with the USAFE Installation Excellence Award trophy Wednesday.**

"best NCC seen in four years" according to the inspector general. The NCC's efforts revolutionized local intranet capabilities and tripled data transfer to 500 customers at many of our remote locations.

### Member support

Members at wing geographically separated units have not only seen enhanced productivity but also better customer service in the last year.

Spangdahlem AB's innovative Airmen Leadership School "road show" brings the classes to young troops at the GSU's — keeping more troops at home and allowing the wing to train 20 percent more than the Air Force average.

Army Air Force Exchange Service also contributed to customer service by donating more than \$1 million toward customer-driven renovation projects, turning two warehouse stores into a world-class B-Xtra, book shop and a furniture store.

### Teamwork

It was through teamwork that Team Eifel improved customer service and satisfaction.

That teamwork was demonstrated in the base's 12th annual Special Children's Day for 199 special needs children from the American and German community. Enthusiasm for this cause brought 400 volunteers and 15 agencies together, continuing a relationship with our community unsurpassed in Europe.

The wing-wide Airmen Against Drunk Driving program is also a huge communication success story. Team Eifel has recorded more than 300 "saves" using 1,000 volunteers who gave more than 6,000 hours of off-duty time to protect the careers and lives of their Team Eifel brothers and sister.

Time after time, Team Eifel took top Air Force and U.S. Air Forces in Europe honors for outstanding personnel, facilities and mission accomplishment. In 2000, people

who participated in Operation Allied Forces earned three Silver Stars, 51 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 41 Bronze Stars. For the second straight year the 52nd FW was home to one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen and wing pilots captured the Daedalian Air Force Fighter Pilot of the Year. It was also the year where the only Air Force member to be asked to attend the State of the Union Address came from Spangdahlem AB.

### Keeping it clean

With all of these accomplishments the base still managed to keep the environment in the forefront. Environmental stewardship has been successfully incorporated into all facets of Spangdahlem AB and many of its GSUs.

Team Eifel's unique environmentally-friendly trained falcons helped to protect the wing's own 'Falcons' by effectively discouraging unwanted birds from jeopardizing 75 multi-million dollar F-16 and A-10 aircraft. One falcon is a double ace with 12 confirmed kills. With a small \$500 per month investment, a local falconer keeps wing aircraft safe.

In creating a safe environment for aircraft and pilots the wing has worked to also make it safe for all people, especially the children. The safety office sponsored a Children's Safety Camp for 130 children and Team Eifel celebrated its first ever "America Recycles Day" by leading the elementary schools on an educational walk along Spangdahlem AB's adopted stream where the base conducted a local fish release.

In streamlining processes, reengineering programs, and improving mission capability and quality of life, while supporting the contingency operations that have become a part of the wing's everyday life, Team Eifel has led the way.

Results of the Air Force Installation Excellence Award competition will be released in late February.

## Briefs

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Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center. This year's theme is, "America's Air Force — No One Comes Close." Special guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hess, 3rd Air Force commander. Tickets cost \$5 and are available through unit first sergeants until Feb. 20.

### Prayer breakfast

The Spangdahlem Air Base national prayer breakfast takes place at 7 a.m. Feb. 21 in the Saber Club. Tickets cost \$5 and are available through unit first sergeants and the base chapel. Call 452-6711 for details.

### Tax assistance

The Spangdahlem Air Base tax shelter opens 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for walk-in assistance and appointments through June. Walk-in assistance is also available 9 a.m. to noon Saturday through March 10.

Appointments, which take precedence

over walk-in service, are available through unit tax advisors. Visit the intranet for the unit tax advisor list or call 452-6572.

### Office change

Ambulance services and the immunizations clinic have switched offices. Both are still located in building 137 and phone numbers remain the same. Call the immunization clinic at 452-8121 for more information.

### Bank hours

The Spangdahlem Air Base Community Bank branch opens 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 20. The Bitburg Annex branch opens 9 a.m. to noon the same day. Call 452-6773 for more information.

### Judge advocate news

The 52nd Fighter Wing Judge Advocate office offers the following services:

■ American attorney services are available 1:30-3 p.m. Tuesday and

Thursday, and 8-10 a.m. Wednesday and Friday.

■ Powers of attorney and notaries are available 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday and Friday.

■ German legal advisor and technician office services are available 8-11 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

For details, visit the legal office Web site at <http://52fwja.law.af.mil>. The site is also available on the base intranet.

### Astronaut applications

The Air Force accepts applications for qualified officers and enlisted members to participate in the Air Force astronaut nomination program. Members meeting the basic eligibility criteria are encouraged to apply.

To qualify for nominations to NASA in the pilot astronaut category, individuals must be a commissioned officer on active duty in the Air Force; be a United States citizen; have earned a bachelor's degree

from an accredited institution in engineering, mathematics, biological or physical sciences; have a minimum of 1,000 hours pilot-in-command time in jet aircraft; have a current Flying Class II completed on or after May 22 and be between 64- and 76-inches tall.

Volunteers should call the military personnel flight at 452-6553 for more information about applying.

### Tip of the Hat

■ Winter Parkas (long and short) will only be worn while performing the specific duty for which they were issued and in winter months only.

■ The olive-green sweater or sleeping shirt may be worn only under the BDU shirt. If the BDU shirt is removed, the sweater is worn only in the duty section. It may not be worn as an outer garment in public areas, unless actually performing duty in that area.

This information and more is contained in AFI 36-2903, AFI 36-2903-SABSUP 1, and/or AFI 36-2203.

# AEF swap-out eases deployment blues

Although troop morale reports high, most members not hesitant to hand over deployment baton

By Staff Sgt. Cindy Maier  
363rd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office

After completing about half of their air expeditionary force commitment, some new faces are adorning the 23rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, this week.

The F-16 CJ squadron, on a 120-day rotation instead of the normal 90, swapped out about 60 percent of their maintenance troops and nearly everyone from operations.

Maj. Brian Beers, 23rd EFS maintenance officer, said the swap-out has improved the squadron's already high morale.

"Knowing you're only here 60 days is more tolerable than spending 90 or 120," he said. "However, we had a lot of people who volunteered to stay the entire 120, if needed."

Beers said the shorter-than-average deployment length isn't the only thing contributing to his squadron's happiness. He said the conditions here are excellent — both working and living.

"This has been a good deployment thus far. The conditions have definitely improved since the old tent-city days."

As more than 60 percent of the squadron left for home at Spangdahlem Air Base, this week, one squadron member said they should have left happy. The first half of the deployment has been extremely successful, according to Capt. Jed Hutchinson, 23rd EFS F-16 CJ pilot.



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid  
**Master Sgt. Rick Pasamante, 23rd Fighter Squadron, is greeted by his wife Maria and his two daughters, Arianna, age 10, and Veronica, age 3, after returning from deployment in Southwest Asia.**

The Fighting Hawks so far have performed 100 percent of their Operation Southern Watch sorties. Maintaining a high sortie rate is important to the whole mission here, Hutchinson said.

"If another type of aircraft doesn't fly, it can probably be replaced with another one," Hutchinson said. "But, because of

our mission of suppression of enemy air defenses, if a CJ doesn't go on the daily mission, plans have to be readjusted so everyone in the area of responsibility has coverage."

The succession rate, according to Hutchinson, has a great deal to do with his squadron's maintainers. "They have done an outstanding job over here."

The 100-plus Spangdahlem AB maintainers, including crew chiefs, avionics specialists, electricians, engine specialists and weapons specialists, are doing the same jobs here that they do at home.

"In addition to the normal day-to-day flying operations, we also completed three F-16 phase inspections, which is a detailed inspection on the entire aircraft. It usually takes two shifts five days to complete," Beers said.

Success hasn't only visited the sortie area of the 23rd EFS. One person was selected as the operations group senior NCO of the month, one was the wing foreign object damage eliminator for December and another awarded a chief's coin for outstanding performance.

Overall, Beers said, this deployment is on the right track.

"Compared to other contingency deployments we have participated in, this rates eight on a scale of 10," he said. "There's always room for improvement, and we have made some suggestions that will hopefully benefit units that follow."

## Civilian hiring freeze continues throughout USAFE

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** — The civilian hiring freeze ordered Jan. 20 by the Bush administration affects all appropriated-fund positions, U.S. and non-U.S., but people can continue to apply for jobs and civilian personnel flights can continue to work hiring actions short of making job offers.

The freeze encompasses the entire Department of Defense and applies to appointments, promotions and reassign-

ments at all grades and from all sources.

Although U.S. Air Forces in Europe's directorate of personnel expects the freeze to be of short duration, it could last longer. The directorate recommends commanders and civilian personnel flights begin identifying their most critical requirements and personnel actions, including any categorical exemptions deemed necessary, in the event the freeze lasts longer than two weeks.

"It is a total freeze on all appropriated-fund positions until further guidance is received from DOD and the Air Force," said Norman Lorange, chief, international personnel management branch, USAFE directorate of personnel.

The only exemption to the freeze in USAFE applies to British Ministry of Defence employees in the England. They are indirect hire employees of the ministry, not the U.S. government.

Headquarters Air Force is working with DOD to provide more specific guidance and procedures on how to operate under the hiring freeze as hiring controls and restrictions are implemented.

Call the 52nd Mission Support Squadron Civilian Personnel Office at 452-6884 or 452-6080 for more information or to apply for a civilian position. Call the job hotline at 452-7315 to find out what positions are open for hiring. (USAFE News Service)

## Viewpoint

### What would you do with the installation excellence award money?



**Maj. Pat Kane**  
23rd Fighter Squadron  
"First, I'd build nine more holes on the golf course. Second, I'd make the skate park bigger. Then, I'd take the rest of the money and bribe AAFES to build a Taco Bell on Spangdahlem."



**Roland Merges**  
52nd Logistics Group  
"I'd buy new furniture and carpeting for the offices."



**Master Sgt. Gene Jackson**  
52nd Comptroller Squadron  
"A quarter-mile indoor running track with fitness equipment or an indoor multi-purpose field, that's where I would like the money to go."



**Staff Sgt. Tanya Owen**  
Health and wellness center  
"An indoor pool and more recreational activities would be good for the moral and welfare issues. There aren't enough things to do on base."



**Senior Airman Herbert Fletcher**  
52nd Fighter Wing  
"I would like the money to go toward supplementing fees for youth activities due to high expenses."



# Officials announce individual, unit awards

U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials recently announced unit and individual award winners in contracting, public affairs and print media for 2000.

## 52nd Operations Group

■Capt. Mike McClung, 52nd Operations Support Squadron, Maj. Gen. John S. Patton Outstanding Active-Duty Intelligence Officer of the Year, level II

## 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

■52nd Fighter Wing, Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award for Internal Information

## Print media

- Eifel Times, large military-funded newspaper category
- Staff Sgt. Bryan Purtell, formerly assigned to 52nd FW/PA, commentary
- Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook, 52nd Communications Squadron, single or stand-alone photograph

## 52nd Contracting Squadron

- 52nd CONS, outstanding contracting unit category
- Elizabeth Beacham, outstanding contracting civilian
- Senior Master Sgt. Michael Berg, outstanding contracting senior-enlisted member
- Senior Airman Julie Hoglund, outstanding contracting junior-enlisted member

Officials from the 52nd Fighter Wing announced recent individual award winners and achievements in leadership, professionalism and innovation.

## 52nd FW fourth quarter awards

- Capt. Kathy Goforth, 22nd FS, company grade officer
- Elke Plein, 52nd Services Squadron, senior-level civilian
- Rudy Thiel, 52nd Supply Squadron, mid-level civilian
- Laurie McCoy, 52nd FW Safety Office, junior-level civilian



Right to left, Capt. Michael Geer, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron design chief, and Staff Sgt. Sandra Butler, 52nd CES, review plans for a new water storage project on Spangdahlem Air Base. The Air Force recently announced the squadron as the Society of American Military Engineers Curtin Award winner for 2000.

- Senior Master Sgt. Frazier Speaks, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, senior NCO
- Tech. Sgt. Malik Sultan, 52nd CES, NCO
- Senior Airman Bobbie Kirby, 52nd Mission Support Squadron, airman
- Tech. Sgt. Malik Sultan, 52nd CES, honor guard member
- Staff Sgt. Martin Brown, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, volunteer

■Airman 1st Class Cassandra Watson, 52nd OSS, foreign object damage fighter

## IDEA award

- Staff Sgt. Sean White, 752nd Munitions Support Squadron, \$400
- Capt. Paul Plocek, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron, \$200
- Tech. Sgt. Roy Cline, 52nd EMS, \$200
- Airman 1st Class Daniel Wagley, 52nd EMS, \$200

## Airman Leadership School Class 01-2

■Senior Airman Christina Packer, 52nd MSS, leadership category

## Bitburg Middle School Spelling Bee

■Samantha Johnson, eighth grade

(Correction: The following seven individuals were mistakenly listed as the 52nd OG annual winners and the 52nd FW spouse of the year in the Jan. 26 issue of the Eifel Times.)

## 52nd Operations Group fourth quarter awards

- Cathy Goforth, 22nd Fighter Squadron, company grade officer
- Thomas Woods, 52nd Operations Support Squadron, senior-level civilian
- Heike Norrell, 52nd OSS, junior-level
- Master Sgt. Jerry Edwards, 22nd FS, senior NCO
- Tech. Sgt. Peter Hinskey, 22nd FS, NCO
- Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Dorman, 22nd FS, airman

## 52nd OG Joan Orr Spouse of the Year

■Stacey Vuckovich, 606th Air Control Squadron

# Rumsfeld speaks on cooperation, missile defense plans in Munich

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The United States has allies, and allies consult with each other. That was the bottom line of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's Feb. 3 speech to the Munich Conference on Security Policy.

He assured listeners the United States would consult with allies and friends about National Missile Defense and about troop levels in the Balkans.

Rumsfeld said world leaders must recognize the world has changed and that defenses, too, must change.

The idea of mutual assured destruction and massive retaliation "worked reasonably well during the Cold War," he said. But the threats have changed, as have the technologies to combat them. The threat from weapons of mass destruction exists, he said, and the United States must plan to counter that threat.

"No U.S. president can responsibly say his defense policy is calculated and designed to leave the American people undefended against threats that are

known to exist," Rumsfeld said. "A system of defense need not be perfect, but the American people must not be left completely defenseless.

"Therefore, the United States intends to develop and deploy a missile defense designed to defend our people and forces against a limited ballistic missile attack," he said.

The United States also is prepared to help friends and allies to deploy such defenses if they're threatened by missile attack, he added.

He said such a system does not threaten anyone and should only be a concern "to those who threaten others."

Rumsfeld also said the conflict over Kosovo showed NATO needs to upgrade and transform its capabilities. Another lesson from the Balkans is "we are most successful when we act together."

Many allies took statements made during the presidential campaign as a promise to remove U.S. service members from duty in the Balkans. Rumsfeld said the United States, with its partner nations, will decide the

appropriate level of forces in the Balkans. NATO reviews troop strengths every six months. The results of the next review will be out in May.

In addition, he said he needs to hear and to learn more about the European Union's European Security and Defense Program. The EU wants to create a 60,000-man security force that could be used when NATO as a whole does not wish to take part.

The 15-nation European Union is composed of Austria, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and 11 NATO members — Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom. The eight NATO allies not in the EU are Canada, Czech Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Turkey and the United States.

As EU countries put together their proposals, Rumsfeld cautioned, they should remember NATO is the most successful alliance in history. He said he would support anything that makes the alliance stronger. (Air Force Print News)

## Accidents

By Senior Airman Cassandra Watts  
52nd Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis

Eifel area drivers suffered seven major and 18 minor accidents this past week while traveling on local roads.

Not all major accidents happen off base in privately owned vehicles. Two government vehicles were involved in one on Perimeter Road.

While one government vehicle driver was backing up a 1989 dump truck, another driver operating a front loader slid about 10 feet on the slick road. The front-loader driver tried to warn the other driver with his horn, but because of all the vehicle noise, the truck driver never heard the horn.

The six other major accidents all resulted because to snow. Three occurred on B-50, two on L-39 and one on L-46.

The 18 minor accidents totaled \$13,150 in damage. The majority of the minor accidents were fender benders and could have been avoided if drivers tried to stay off the roads during adverse weather conditions.

In addition, there were 30 traffic citations issued this past week. One of the 30 citations was for speeding, while the majority was parking violations. Eifel drivers are reminded that three parking tickets can result in the loss of their driving privileges.

# USAFE takes quality of life one step further

Improving living standards includes fostering military community involvement, teamwork

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — Taking Air Force quality-of-life efforts one step further is the goal of the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

This effort, called High Standards for Life encompasses current quality-of-life efforts and expands upon them, according to Gen. Gregory Martin, USAFE commander.

"It is a standard for your life, not just your off-duty time," Martin said.

High Standards for Life focuses on the quality of the facilities people work and live in and on the work people do. It also focuses on the way people hold themselves personally and professionally accountable to the standards to which they are asked to perform, Martin said.

"Now, I don't just mean leaders holding their people accountable," he said. "I mean that we, the workers, hold ourselves accountable to the standards, including mission capable rates, the appearance of our bases and facilities and in the way we treat one another."

"It's important we take care of (our officers, enlisted, civilians and contractors) and be concerned about the way they are provided for, the way they are treated and the rewards they receive for their hard work," he said.

"However, we can't forget the one group — our families — that is very important to the environment in which we live," Martin said. "It is our families that sustain our force structure daily while we are deployed."

One initiative under High Standards for Life that keeps families in mind is the effort to make Department of Defense Dependents Schools an even more attractive, stable and progressive system; making parents feel good about being stationed in Europe because their



Left to right, Staff Sgt. Kirt Staadt, Senior Airman Michael Graham and Airman 1st Class Jason Friday, 22nd Fighter Squadron load crew, load an AIM-9 missile on an F-16.

children have an educational advantage, Martin said.

Although the schools do not fall under USAFE's control, by developing a partnership with the educators, principals and superintendents, the Air Force has been able to work for greater improvement and has received greater support.

"It is important to make sure that the parents are just as engaged (as the Air Force), since it is their children that are being educated," he said. "The school board advisory initiative is just such an opportunity."

The initiative, similar to some state school systems in the United States, allows for an elected body of parents, with children enrolled in schools within a district, to meet, take complaints and grievances, and make suggestions for improvement.

The parents are able to present the suggestions to the command chain and the school leadership for review and are entitled

to receive responses to the recommendations made.

"We may not always be able to approve everything as recommended, but the commanders and school leadership will be accountable to respond to the school board," Martin said.

"I think this is a great initiative that gives us the opportunity to hear directly from the parents about the things that are important to them and the education of their children," he said.

With efforts to care for school-age children in place, the command is also preparing to implement a special supplemental nutrition program for pregnant and breast-feeding women, and infants and children up to age 5, based on income and nutritional needs.

Phase I of the Women, Infants, and Children Overseas program is scheduled to begin this month.

Although WICO will only be available to

military families at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, and Baumholder, Germany, during Phase I, Martin said when Phase II begins this summer, all eligible military families throughout Europe may enroll.

Another important feature of High Standards for Life is force protection, according to Martin.

"We are providing a forward presence that is a visible sign to the rest of the world that America is committed to assisting and engaging with those nations that are trying to provide a more secure and stable environment for prosperity and growth throughout the world," he said.

"Unfortunately, there are those elements that aren't necessarily in favor of American presence and the opportunities we are helping other nations to provide. Therefore, we must be on guard 24 hours a day."

"We must do all we can to provide the appropriate detection systems and force protection infrastructure and we must continually work on educating and training our people on the importance of taking responsibility for situational awareness and personal protection."

By taking care of and protecting families, USAFE hopes to allow its men and women to better focus on the mission at hand.

"On a daily basis, we provide forces into the Balkans and support both (Operations) Northern and Southern Watch," he said. "We also respond to humanitarian relief operations in Africa, Turkey or other places where there may be natural disasters."

"I can't emphasize enough that our success is a direct result of the work our men and women do," he said. "I can't thank them enough for the work they do and have been doing under very trying, harsh and sometimes unacceptable conditions."

## DOD launches Web site for special needs families

By Linda D. Kozaryn  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — Need to know if your next duty station can accommodate a handicapped family member? If so, you can now turn to the Internet for information.

The Defense Department's Special Needs Network, a Web site for military families with special medical or educational needs went on line Jan. 24 at [http://mfrc-\(no hyphen\) calib.com/snn](http://mfrc-(no hyphen) calib.com/snn).

Rebecca Posante, a program analyst at DOD's Office of Educational Opportunity, initiated the site to provide access to information and resources.

The site features simple design and straightforward point-and-click access to information. Menu options include assignment coordination, federal and state programs, and health and education. Other menu topics include relocation, community support, advocacy and resources.

Posante said the site would help service members and their families research assignments and hook up with care coordinators and service providers. She called "special needs," an umbrella term for a wide range of services — everything from assignment and coordination, to family support, to special education.

DOD has no formal special needs program, but the

military puts a great deal of effort into families with special needs, Posante said. For instance, each service has an Exceptional Family Member Program to coordinate assignments and to provide information and referrals to families with special needs, she noted.

"The services take both educational and medical needs into consideration when assigning families overseas," she said. "For example, if a service member going overseas has a wife who's in a wheelchair, we would try to find a place where facilities are wheelchair-accessible. In some overseas locations, U.S. facilities might be, but community facilities might not be."

By the same token, military officials would try to assign a service member with a blind child to a location overseas that has a teacher who specializes in working with visually impaired children. Each service has at least one such location, Posante said.

For stateside assignments, the military Exceptional Family Member programs are concerned mainly with medical needs, she said.

Unfortunately, available support varies from base to base because no standard exists, she said. Posante intends the Special Needs Network to complement available services and to help those who work with special needs families to

identify information and resources.

The new Web site also provides access to a confidential members' network where families and service providers can exchange information. Users must register by providing their names, e-mail addresses and "screen" names that identify their messages and allow other members to respond.

"The members' network will allow people to raise issues with others who might have the kind of information we may never have. Like, 'I'm moving to Fort Lewis, Wash., and I need a dentist for my 5-year-old autistic child.'"

While most people wouldn't know any dentists with that specialty, another family in the same boat might, she said. Or someone with a Downs Syndrome child might be moving to an area and want to know about local advocacy groups and support programs.

Site visitors can also use the members' network to ask another family with special needs to serve as "tour guides" when they relocate. "It's always your decision whether to share your e-mail with other members," Posante stressed.

The network will automatically send interested members news about various issues. In addition to the members' network, visitors can use an e-mail form on the site to send recommendations, links and information.



Col. John and Cathy Watkins, wedding day 1981

Courtesy photos

We in the Air Force tend to think of wing commanders — especially fighter pilots — as bold, confident, suave and without fear. But they weren't always that way, say their wives, who tell us how they met their Valentine for life!



Brig. Gen. Don and Jacki Hoffman, circa 1979

## THE WAY THEY WERE

By Capt. Glen Roberts  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

### Jacki Hoffman:

**How did you and (Brig.) General (Don) Hoffman (52nd Fighter Wing commander) first meet?**

Actually, I was first introduced to Don through Dale Redding, who later became Dale Thompson. Wing members may know her husband, Col. Alan Thompson, who was the 52nd FW vice commander from July 1998 to September 2000.

Dale introduced me to Don at the officers club at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in 1977. Don was a first lieutenant and first-assignment instructor pilot, teaching German pilots how to fly the T-38. I was a second lieutenant nurse.

He was very shy. When Dale introduced us, he didn't overwhelm me with conversation. "Hi!" was about it.

Weeks later, I saw him at the officers club again. I sidled up to him and said, "I remember you . . . you're Don Hoffman." I asked him what he was doing, and he said, "Nothing." So I said, "Why not come on over here with my friends and do 'nothing' with us?" The rest, as they say, is history.

**What were the circumstances of your first date?**

I had to work at it. While in the officers club, my male nurse friend was playing the piano, and I tap danced. Really! And I had just bought a convertible Fiat Sports Spider, so I

asked him if he knew anything about cars and if he could help me get the top down? He did, but he still didn't ask me out.

I ended up having to call and ask him out. He said he had to fly early all that week and couldn't accept! Minutes later, after consulting with Dale, I called him back and asked about the following week, and he accepted. I ended up cooking dinner for him and taking him to the Wichita Falls (Texas) Rodeo.

**How did he propose?**

We were dating for three years, and spent a lot of time working on his awful triplex house. That house needed a lot of work, and at the time, I was an active-duty nurse putting in 60 hours per week with my job and spending all my free time fixing Don's house. One day, I was out shoveling dirt from under his garage in the Texas heat, and he was chipping clay to put in new pipes. I got frustrated, said I'd had enough and told him I was leaving after 10 more buckets.

"Wait," he said. "I have something to ask you. Will you marry me?" he asked from behind some plumbing.

The sad thing is I couldn't even get to him to hug him because he was caught behind the pipes. But I did end up shoveling about 25 more buckets that day!

**Cathy Watkins:**

**How did you meet Col. (John) Watkins (52nd Fighter Wing vice commander)? What was your first date like?**

I met him on a blind date actually. He was going through

undergraduate pilot training at Williams AFB (Ariz.) and I worked for a school in Chandler. A mutual friend had us meet at her house for pizza and drinks. John, of course, got lost on the way and showed up an hour and a half late. And the first thing he said to his friend when he saw me was, "Great! She's got frizzy hair!" Not a stellar intro.

**Any embarrassing dating moments?**

Not particularly embarrassing, but awkward. That same night, we decided to go swimming in my friend's pool. Unfortunately, I didn't bring a bathing suit, so my friend said she'd loan me one. Of course, she picked out a bikini. . . and then to make matters worse, she left me alone with John. There I was, in someone else's bikini, with this strange man and I mean STRANGE man.

**Any favorite Valentine's memories?**

Last year, John chartered a lear jet for just he and I, and flew me to Venice for a romantic weekend. Actually, we flew space-A on a C-21 from Ramstein (Air Base) to Aviano (Air Base, Italy) then took a train to Venice, but John likes to say he chartered a jet just for me. It really was a wonderful trip, though.

**Any Valentine's message for the colonel?**

Just that it's been a hoot being married to him. We'll celebrate our 20-year wedding anniversary in August, and I can't imagine having spent my life with anyone else.



# Stomach flu: What should parents do

Offer patients rehydration formula to prevent dehydration, says pediatrician

By Maj. Carol Ferrua  
52nd Medical Group pediatrician

As many people are aware, a stomach flu is going around the Eifel region. It's miserable to be sick, but it's especially concerning when children start vomiting and get diarrhea.

When children just have diarrhea, it's fine to feed them normally and offer plenty of fluids. However, parents shouldn't give children fruit juices as they can make diarrhea worse.

Parents should bring children in to see a doctor if the children wet less than three diapers in 24 hours, if the diarrhea lasts longer than two weeks or if there's blood in the stool.

Treatment of vomiting children varies. If the child is breastfeeding, the mother can try to continue breastfeeding, but reduce feedings to only five minutes on one side. Repeat this every 10-15 minutes.

If the child is formula feeding or doesn't tolerate breastfeeding, give 5cc or one

teaspoon of rehydration formula, such as Pedialyte, every 10-15 minutes. Give children 12 months or older three teaspoons or one tablespoon of rehydration formula every 10-15 minutes. Continue this process until the child hasn't vomited for at least 12 hours before reintroducing solid foods, baby food or formula.

Don't give the child water or juice. First, because they don't replace the sugar or electrolytes the child is lacking. Secondly, because juice has too much sugar and could

make the child's diarrhea worse.

If you try solids and the child vomits again, start over with the rehydration formula. Also bring children in to see a doctor if they aren't tolerating breast milk or rehydration formula or are still demonstrating the other symptoms.

Viruses cause most stomach flus, so usually antibiotics or stool cultures aren't necessary. Finally, but very importantly, wash hands well so the whole family doesn't end up sharing the germs.

## European Command DODDS survey seeks parental feedback on programs

*Results used to improve educational environments, retention*

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** — The European Command's third annual Department of Defense Dependent Schools survey went out at the end of January to several thousand recipients within EUCOM.

The EUCOM Quality of Life Division bulk mailed the surveys Jan. 29 to a random sample of 3,000 members throughout DODDS' eight European school districts, said Dr. Susan Kelly, U.S. Air Forces in Europe's DODDS liaison officer.

The survey continues through March 1. People who aren't selected by mail to respond but would like to, can download and complete the survey by visiting the EUCOM Web site at [www.eucom.mil](http://www.eucom.mil). The on-line survey will include directions on where to send the responses.

This year's survey, like last year's, is designed to help EUCOM better track year-to-year improvements within the DODDS-Europe system. Information garnered from the survey can be used to lobby the Department of Defense for funding of needed programs, said Scott Haines, EUCOM Quality of Life Division representative.

"The results of previous surveys have been credited with helping to get all-day kindergarten in many military communities as well as a lower student-teacher ratio in the early elementary grades," Haines said.

The connection between force readiness and quality of life is evident by how satisfied parents are with DODDS, he said. "The quality of dependent education directly impacts such factors as retainability of military personnel and the ability of our service components to attract families to overseas assignments."

The 2001 survey contains 23 questions addressing topics ranging from the quality of DODDS and its delivery of subject matter to respondents' satisfaction with DODDS programs availability and quality.

Address questions concerning the survey to the EUCOM Quality of Life Division at DSN 430-5336 or commercial within Germany at 0711-680-5336. Dial 49-711-68-5336 if calling from outside Germany.

The results of the survey will be posted to the EUCOM Web site in April. (USAFE News Service)



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

### Sharing quality time

Members of the Bunny Club playgroup relax and enjoy a children's story together recently. The group meets 10 a.m. to noon each Thursday in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Other preschool playgroups include Ready, Set, Grow, which meets 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Wednesday in the same location and the Spangdahlem playgroup, which meets 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Speicher Protestant church. Call 453-3130 for more information.

## Caring for primaries now helps prevent future tooth decay

By Airman Christopher Cortalano  
52nd Dental Squadron

New parents may not realize the importance of caring for baby, or primary, teeth. Although the permanent teeth eventually replace primary teeth, this first set is critical for proper chewing, speaking and appearance. Without care, children can develop serious tooth decay before their third birthday.

Baby bottle tooth decay, also called nursing-bottle or nursing-mouth syndrome, is a condition that can destroy the primary teeth. The condition develops when a baby frequently gets a bottle of formula, fruit juice or sweetened liquids to serve as a pacifier. Prolonged breast feeding may also cause this condition. The upper front teeth are most often damaged by this habit, but other teeth may also be affected.

### Clean baby teeth

The 52nd Dental Squadron recommends parents wipe their baby's teeth and gums with a clean gauze pad after each feeding. This removes plaque and prevents acid attacks on primary teeth.

Tooth decay is caused by bacteria, which is present in a thin film of plaque constantly forming on the teeth. The bacteria in plaque use sugar to produce acid, which attacks tooth enamel. If sugary liquids are allowed to remain in the mouth, acid can attack teeth for several minutes. Tooth decay is usually the result of frequent, repeated acid attacks.

It's not just what children drink, but how often and for how long their teeth are exposed to decay-causing acids. For example, offering bottles containing a sugary liquid as a pacifier several times a

day results in the teeth experiencing more acid attacks. Allowing a child to fall asleep with a bottle can also harm the teeth. While a baby sleeps, the flow of saliva decreases and harmful sugary liquids collect and remain around the teeth, inviting acid attacks.

Parents can prevent this by watching what they give their baby between regular feedings. A bottle shouldn't be used as a pacifier or as a sleeping aid unless it contains only water. Don't dip pacifiers in sweet liquids and avoid adding sugar to

baby foods. Children can be taught to drink from a cup when they're about 1 year old.

Parents should begin brushing their children's teeth with water as soon as the baby's first tooth appears. Continue cleaning and massaging gums in all other areas remaining toothless.

Visit the dentist by the child's first birthday. Although this may seem early, the dentist can determine the right cleaning techniques are being done. The dentist also can check for problems with primary teeth.

By preventing plaque from forming on baby teeth, parents can help ensure their children's teeth don't become a primary health problem in the future.

Call the base dental clinic at 452-8193 for more information or to make an appointment.



## Community Mailbox

### OCSC board

The Officer and Civilian Spouses Club accepts applications and nominations for the 2001/2002 executive board and chairman positions. Call Melody Knapp at 06502-936570 for more information.

### Education office news

■ Pick up applications for Term IV spouse tuition assistance at the education office or the Bitburg Annex post office. Deadline for submission is March 2.

■ Deadline to submit nominations for Community College of the Air Force degree candidates is Feb. 23.

■ Airman scholarship and commissioning program packages must arrive at Air Force ROTC headquarters by March 15.

■ Deadline to submit officer training squadron applications is April 17. Packages with waivers must be submitted by April 3.

The education office offers free walk-in counseling 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each Friday. Call 452-6063 for more information.

### Child find

Screenings for children ages 3-4 years old who may have developmental delays take place March 2 in Spangdahlem Elementary School. Call Pat Wynne at 452-5071 for appointments.

### Parenting class

Parenting preschoolers classes take place 10 a.m. to noon various days in the Spangdahlem Air Base housing unit 422-C social room. Part three, about children 2-3, takes place Tuesday. Call Dr. Suzanne Furman at 452-8282 to register or for details.



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

### Celebrating diversity

A. Maryam Muhammad of the Royal Heritage Ensemble sings a traditional African song Saturday in honor of Black Heritage Month at the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center. Band members Jose Bonilla and Kingsley Thurber play guitar. Black Cultural Awareness Association Gospel Explosion takes place at 4 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. Call David Lewis at 452-7068 or 0175-3749256 for details.

### BHM event

The black heritage month banquet takes place at 6 p.m. March 3. Location is to be determined. Call David Lewis at 452-7068 or 0175-3749256 for details.

### Bitburg elementary news

■ The school nurse seeks volunteers to assist with dental screenings 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 20-23. Call Tammy Dean at 453-7805 for details.

■ The playground by the school is closed for repair until further notice.

Call the school at 453-7215 for details.

### Family support center news

■ Part two of mutual fundamentals takes place 6-8 p.m. Thursday.

■ Traveling with children, a class

offering traveling advice for parents, takes place 9-11 a.m. Thursday.

■ Air Force as a second language, a class for military spouses, takes place 9-11 a.m. Feb. 22.

■ Drawing lessons for students in third through 12th grade take place 6-8 p.m. each Wednesday.

■ Creative critters art and music classes for children 18 months old to 4 years takes place 10-11 a.m. each Monday.

Classes take place in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call the family support center at 453-7491 to register or for details.

### Ardenne march

The World War II Society in Europe co-sponsors the 82nd Airborne Ardennes march Feb. 17 in northern Belgium. The 13-mile march commemorates the heroic actions of

the 82nd Airborne Division during the Battle of the Bulge, which took place from 1944-1945. Cost is \$59 per person. Payment deadline is today. Call the society at 06507-8292 or 06507-802616 for details.

### Spangdahlem elementary

The first- and second-grade drama club presents "Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock" at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22 in the school's original gym. Call the school at 452-6881 for details.

### Holiday closures

The Spangdahlem Air Base Commissary closes Feb. 19 and the Bitburg Annex facility Feb. 19-20 for President's Day. Call Kenneth Mitchell at 453-7635 for details.

### Council meeting

The Eifel Parents Advisory Council meets noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center. Call Staff Sgt. Valerie Dennis at 452-8325 for details.

### Learning new skills

The 52nd Services Squadron skills development centers offer the following classes:

■ Framing takes place 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$25.

■ Auto mechanics takes place 5-7 p.m. Wednesday and Feb. 21. Cost is \$20.

■ Tole painting takes place 6-8 p.m. Feb. 19. Cost is \$15.

Classes take place on Spangdahlem AB in building 189. Call 452-6841 to register.

### Poland shopping trip

The 52nd Medical Group Poland shopping trip takes place March 2-4. Cost is \$90 for two seats for a single person or \$50 for one seat. Call Staff Sgt. Jody Yeager at 453-3336 or 06575-959703 for reservations.



## Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

**Bitburg Castle**

Tonight

**Cast Away (PG-13)**

An express mail systems engineer whose personal and professional life is ruled by the clock, must transform himself physically and emotionally to survive a crash landing on a deserted island.

Saturday

**Cast Away**

Sunday

**The Little Vampire (PG)**

A little boy meets a new friend who happens to be a vampire. Together they embark on a grand adventure to find a magic pendant needed to save the vampire community from a life of eternal darkness. (Mild peril)

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

**Pay It Forward (PG-13)**

A boy creates a scheme as a class project, which involves helping people continuously until everyone is doing something nice for someone else. He puts his plan into action and it actually works, though not in the way the boy anticipated, and not until his own world is forever changed for better and worse. (Thematic elements, sexual situations, language and violence.)

Thursday

**Book of Shadows, Blair Witch II (R)**

After spending a disorienting night at one of the most sinister sites in Blair Witch lore, five campers awake to a scene of destruction and no memory of having gone to sleep. In an attempt to piece together what happened, they return to an abandoned warehouse where legend begins to bleed into reality. (Violence, language, sexuality and drug use.)

**Spangdahlem Skyline**

Tonight

**Thirteen Days (PG-13)**

This film is set during the two-week Cuban missile crisis in October of 1962, and it centers on how President John F. Kennedy, Attorney General Robert Kennedy and others handled the explosive situation.

Saturday

**Thirteen Days**

Sunday

**Thirteen Days**

Monday

**Rugrats in Paris (G)**

Tommy and the whole gang tag along with Stu to Reptarland. Their travels take them from the Eiffel Tower to Norte Dame and everywhere in between. Along the way, they learn lessons about courage, loyalty, trust and above all, true love.

Tuesday

**Men of Honor (R)**

The inspirational, true-life exploits of Carl Brashear, who becomes the Navy's first African-American master diver. (Language.)

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.  
For the most current information,  
call 453-7541.

# Winter-season sales in full swing

## Shops try to unload cold-weather items, preparing for spring stock

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Shoppers looking for good deals should get out Saturday and take advantage of the final day of winter-season sales.

"The stocks of winter clothes are still quite full because of the mild temperatures we had before Christmas," said Hubertus Pellengahr, Main Association of German Retail Business in Berlin representative.

But, to make room for the new stock, such as spring clothing, the latest 'high tech' stuff and fashionable items and all winter merchandise must go. Consequently the prices drop — sometimes drastically.

This years sales prices will beat those of previous years, according to local merchants. Customers can find bargains marked down to 50 and even 70 percent, according to Pellengahr.

Shoppers should watch for the letters "WSV," which mean winter-season sales. Bright-red signs and price tags attract shopper's views. Price tags often show a crossed out price with the reduced price written next to it. "Reduziert" means reduced, and is written on boards on stands and shelves throughout stores.



Iris Reiff

German shoppers search through discounted winter merchandise.

When unsure of a price or whether something has been marked down for the winter sales, ask a shop assistant or take the item to the "Kasse," or cashier, to find out.

Keep in mind reduced merchandise can't be exchanged, according to German law. German law also states if an item carries a wrong price tag, due to a mistake by the

store, the store must sell the item at the price stated.

Smaller stores commonly open about 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. The larger department stores may be open until 4 p.m. Shoppers should arrive early to find good parking spots in cities such as Trier or consider traveling by train.



## Out and about



■Fasching, Germany's Foolish season, is just around the corner. Read in the Eifel Times what this holiday is all about and how to be a part of it. Dates and times of fasching events and parades will be published.

■Hard rock music bands Verbrannte Erde, Kafkas and 7 of 9 play tonight at the Trier Exzellenshaus, located on Zurmaier Strasse. For details or tickets, call the Trier Volksfreund press center at 0651-145990.

■Attend the opening ceremony for the Trier city theater artist at 6 tonight in the theater gallery. A variety of paintings will be on display.

■The world renowned "Swan Lake" ballet by Peter I. Tchaikowski performs at 8 tonight in Trier's city theater. Tickets sales begin at 7 p.m. at the door.

■Visit a flea market Sunday inside and outside the Trier Messepark hall; inside the Piesport Moseltal hall; inside and outside the Machern Cloister, located near the Mosel town of Zeltingen-Rachtig; inside and outside the Bernkastel-Kues Gueter hall or old train station; at the Idar-Oberstein Vollmersbachtal festival grounds; inside the Ramstein Flohmarkt hall, located on Flurstrasse 4; in front of the Ramstein SBK Warenhaus store; in front of the Wiesbaden Wal-Mart, located on Mainzer Strasse, and at the Koblenz-Luetzel Castro Depot, located on federal road B-9.

■A small dolls and Teddy bear market takes place Sunday in the Trier Hotel Deutscher Hof, located on Suedalle 25.

■More Teddy bears and everything you ever wanted to know about the toy can be found at the Natur Musee of Luxemburg city. For more information and directions, call the museum at

00352-4622331. The museum is open 2-6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

■A photo art exhibition, featuring winter landscapes, can be seen through Feb. 25 in the Luxembourg Phototek. For details or to receive a city map, call the Luxembourg tourist information office at 00352-42828225.

■Salome Dream Theater performs at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Trier Europa Halle. Call the Trier Volksfreund press center at 0651-145990 for tickets.

■Listen to the famous musical sounds of Andrew Lloyd Webber Tuesday in the Trier Europa Halle. Call the Trier Volksfreund press center at 0651-145990 for tickets.

■See a Gala ballet performed by the Trier Theater Ballet Ensemble and international guests at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Tuesday in Trier's city theater.

■Register soon for the 31st International Volksmarch of Malberg, May 19-20. Call the Kyllburg tourist information office at 06563-930243 or 06563-930244 for details.

■Trier's annual wine and gourmet festival takes place March 9 through April 8. For details, visit the German language Web site at www.wein-festival.de.

■Jazz and swing music by the Glenn Miller Orchestra plays March 23 in the Trier Europa Halle. For tickets, call the Trierischer Volksfreund Press Center at 0651-145990.

■The Manfred Mann's Earth Band concert takes place March 31 in the Kaiserlautern Kammgarn center. Call 0651-145990.

■Reserve tickets now for the "Magic of The Dance" tap dance show April 4 in the Bitburg Edith-Stein school. This is

an encore performance. For tickets, call 0651-145990.

■See "Evita," a musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber, April 21 in Trier. For details, call 0651-145990.

■Attend a jazz concert by the Kenny Wheeler Quartet May 3. For details and tickets, call the Trierischer Volksfreund Press Center at 0651-145990.

■Attend the 31st International Volksmarch of Malberg May 19-20. Call the Kyllburg tourist information office at 06563-930244 for details.

■This year's Rock am Ring open air festival takes place June 1-3 at the famous Nuerburgring race track. Many international performers are scheduled to perform at the festival, which attracts thousands of people annually.

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Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in February. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg Annex community center at 453-7120 for details.

■Amsterdam express, Saturday. Cost is \$69 for adults, \$65 for children ages 3-12.

■Köln Cathedral and chocolate museum, Saturday. Cost is \$32 for adults, \$29 for children ages 3-12.

■Paris for Valentine's Day, Feb. 17-19. Cost is \$499 for couples, \$269 for singles.

■Dinner and wine probe, Feb. 17. Cost is \$35 per person.

■Bavarian castles express, Feb. 24. Cost is \$80 for adults, \$75 for children ages 3-14.

■Maastricht and Applebees, Feb. 24. Cost is \$30 for adults, \$25 for children ages 3-12.

■Rosenmontag-Fasching parade in Köln, Feb. 26. Cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children.

...

The outdoor recreation program sponsors the following trips in February and March. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 452-7176 for details.

■President's Day ski trip in Stubital, Austria; Feb. 16-19. Cost is \$285 per person or \$260 with own ski equipment. Minimum age is 12.

■Friday after work spa trip, Feb. 23. Cost is \$35 per person. Minimum age is 10.

■English-style horseback riding, Feb. 25. Cost is \$25. Minimum age is 12 if accompanied by an adult; otherwise 14 years old.

■Snow bus special to Feldburg, Germany; March 3-4. Cost is \$90 per person. Minimum age is 14.

■Indoor climbing wall trip, March 10. Cost is \$25 per person. Minimum age is 14.

■Underground mountain biking, March 11. Cost is \$30 biking only; \$50 with two hour spa. Minimum age is 10.

■Luxembourg cave rappel, March 17. Cost is \$30 per person. Minimum age is 14.

■Castle, cave and spa in Valkenburg, the Netherlands; March 18. Cost is \$45 per person with spa; \$20 without. Minimum age is 18, unless accompanied by an adult.

■Saalbach, Austria ski trip, March 24-27. Cost is \$290 with ski rental; \$265 with own equipment. Minimum age is 18, unless accompanied by an adult.

# Lady Barons claim overtime victory against Ramstein

By Denny Lemmon  
Bitburg High School girl's basketball coach

After two disappointing losses recently in Brussels, the Bitburg High School Lady Barons shocked the Division I Ramstein Lady Royals 59-56 in overtime Jan. 30.

Last year, the Lady Barons lost a three-point heartbreaker in front of its home crowd. The squad returned the favor by defeating the Lady Royals before a packed home crowd.

Junior varsity action proved to be a warm-up for the thrilling night as the Ramstein JV team nearly ended Bitburg JV's 23-game, three-year win streak. Down by six points going into the fourth quarter, BHS pulled out a climactic 34-33 win.

In the varsity game, the Lady Barons jumped off to a 15-10 first quarter lead behind Kimberly McLearn's seven points. The Lady Royals outscored the Barons 15-10 in the

second quarter knotting the game at 25 all at the half.

Despite an inspiring half-time chat with the coaching staff, the Lady Barons trailed by 10 points after three minutes into the third quarter. Still down by 10 going into the fourth, the Lady Barons rallied to outscore the Lady Royals 15-5 to send the game into OT. Crystal Bessler led the team in the fourth quarter scoring attack with seven points.

In the extra period, BHS put 10 points on the board to Ramstein's seven to give the team from the Eifel the nail-biting win.

McLearn led all scorers with 18 points, 10 rebounds and five steals. She hit a blistering 60 percent from the field and 83 percent from the charity line. Bessler, shooting 50 percent from the field, hit 17 points, grabbed five rebounds, had one assist and blocked a shot. Wesley Canada contributed six points and pulled down nine rebounds, most

of those in the crucial fourth quarter comeback. Constance Maziel added 10 points.

The JV team looked as if it was about to lose its first game in 24 starts, trailing Ramstein 17-10 at the half. Ramstein maintained its lead into the final period. Down by six, the JV Lady Barons managed to outscore Ramstein 12-5 in the fourth quarter to snatch a one-point victory out of the grasps of the JV Lady Royals.

Freshman Janise Russ sparked the offense, leading all scorers with 18 points. She also pulled down seven rebounds and had two steals. Junior forward Deneshia Roberson hit six of her eight points in the crucial final quarter. She also pulled down six rebounds. Jessica Wood added three points and three steals. Sophomore Katie Carr, playing the entire second half with four fouls, contributed three points, pulled down five rebounds, made four steals and had one blocked shot. Quenessa Bush pulled down four rebounds and added two points in the winning effort.

## Eifel sports world

### Racquetball

The Spangdahlem Air Base Intramural Racquetball program starts March 5. People interested in joining should call today for initial registration. Deadline to submit a letter of intent is Feb. 16. Call Tech. Sgt. Rick Kane at 452-6838 for more information or to register.

### Rodeo

The Spangdahlem Air Base rodeo team seeks new members to compete in the European Rodeo Cowboys Association competition. Call Travis Beck at 06561-949669 or Daniel Wagley at 06561-670298 for details.

### Varsity softball

A meeting for men's and women's varsity softball takes place 5 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center. Also, the fitness center accepts applications for men's and women's varsity softball coaches. Submission deadline is Feb. 17. Call 452-6634 for details.

### Fishing

The Eifel Anglers German and American Fishing Club offers a fishing class 7-9 p.m. Feb. 22-23 and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 25 in the American Legion on B-50. Upon

completion of the course, people are eligible to obtain a five-year German fishing license.

Cost of the course is \$120 and includes a one-year club membership, \$20 with a six-month membership or \$100 without club membership. People who opt for the course with membership may pay in two installments.

In addition, the club invites members and non-members with German fishing licenses to fish in the club's trout pond near St. Thomas 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday.

Each fish caught costs only 3.50 DM during the Sunday hours. License holders are reminded one non-licensed person can fish as a guest; however, any fish caught counts toward the licensed members total.

For more information, call 06565-94094 or Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero at 452-5244.

### Eifel Lanes bowling news

■ Valentine's Day special offers buy one, get one free bowling for couples 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 14.

■ Ladies Fachsing special offers "glow-bowling" and ladies drink specials.

■ The Eifel Lanes Bowling Center offers family discounts noon to 5 p.m. each Sunday. For more information, call 452-6217.

■ League bowlers practice for only \$1.50 a game 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bowlers must present a current ABC/WIBC card to receive the reduced price.

Call the Eifel Lanes Bowling Center at 452-6217 for details.

### New aerobics class times

Aerobics now take place in the Bitburg Annex fitness center 6-7 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday. Cost is \$3 per class or \$25 per month. For more information, call 453-7710. Additionally, aerobics classes cost \$3 per class, \$25 a month, \$20 for the last three weeks of the month, \$15 for the last two weeks or \$10 for the last week.

### Indoor soccer

A free intramural indoor soccer program is available for all youth program ID card holders. Registration begins Thursday at Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex youth centers. Call 452-7545 or 453-6374 for details.

### Fitness center closure

The Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center closes at noon Feb. 23 and remains closed through Feb. 24 for the annual awards banquet. Call 452-6634 for more information.



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

### Fighting resistance

Melissa Lindstrom (left), health and wellness center fitness program manager, shows Spangdahlem Air Base community members how to properly execute incline chest press exercises during the "Women of Iron" class Jan. 25. The class teaches weight training academics and techniques for women of all ages. The next class takes place at 2 p.m. Thursday. Call the center at 452-9355 for more information or to register.

# Barons wrestlers succumb to Patch might

## Despite loss, Barons to test skills in All-European Championships

By Ross Calvert  
Bitburg High School wrestling coach

Though unable to hold off Patch for the Division II School, Bitburg High School wrestlers put on a show that rocked the Hanau gymnasium Feb. 3.

Throughout the tournament, the lead swayed between Bitburg and Patch with only a few points spread between the two. Patch edged its way ahead in the end with seven wrestlers in the finals and Bitburg with six.

Although Bitburg was the defending champions, the team was plagued with illnesses and injuries all year. This unfortunate string of luck along with its cadre of first-year wrestlers cast doubt to many of the Barons chances of even placing in this grueling match.

"We new that it was going to be between Patch and us for the title," said Tony Muggerud, assistant coach. "The experience level on their team averaged about three years a piece. Less than half our team knew anything about wrestling at the beginning of the season four months ago."

Patch barely edged out Bitburg with 233 points and Bitburg's at 204. Air Force North trailed with 135 points, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe with 119, Mannheim with 118, Vilseck with 117, ASL with 89 and Hanau with 68.

Making it to the championships were Steve Mazzi at 119 pounds, John Gabaldon at 130, Matt Reynolds at 140, Jermeny Ponce at 160, Adam Pickett at 171 and Matt Holas at 215. Third place finishers included Jacob Smith, 112 pounds; Broderick Lockett, 125; Ryan Butler, 145; Jed



Gordon Canada

Matt Holas, Bitburg Barons, pins a SHAPE opponent.

Balliett, 189; and Justin Sloane at 275. Fourth place finishers include Chris Reynolds at 130 pounds, Andrew Schenck, 135; Braden Blake, 152; Charlie Pierce, 171; and Jermeny Wooten at 215 pounds. Steve Gutchow rounded things off with a sixth place finish.

The Barons compete at the All-European Championships today and Saturday. The Barons go up against 32 schools in the Department of Defense Dependent School System Europe, including teams from Iceland, England, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Turkey.



Senior Airman Jerron Barnett

Tino Martinez, New York Yankees first baseman, gets some last minute instructions from Maj. Scott Bowen, U.S. Air Force Thunderbird slot pilot, before takeoff.

## Yankees star trades ball uniform for flight suit

By Senior Airman Jerron Barnett  
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Tino Martinez, Baseball's New York Yankees first baseman, got the once-in-a-lifetime chance Jan. 23 — to fly with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. It was a chance he had dreamed as a child.

"I've been really excited about it ever since (Brig. Gen. Chip Diehl, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander) called me about it a couple days ago," Martinez said before his pre-flight training. "I've seen the planes in Seattle airshows a couple of times. I used to live close to this area when I was growing up, and I would always see the planes practice a lot. It's awesome to watch."

The Thunderbirds were there to support Super Bowl XXXV. They performed aerial maneuvers right before kickoff. While they were in town, the pilots also gave some of the local celebrities, like Martinez, orientation flights. (Air Force News Service)

# Heidelberg douses reign of Bitburg junior varsity with 31-30 buzzer beater

By Denny Lemmon  
Bitburg High School girl's basketball coach

Heidelberg ended the junior varsity Lady Barons' 25-game win streak Saturday night at the buzzer on the Barons home court.

The 31-30 loss was the first in nearly three seasons for the JV squad. A team record 31 turnovers by Bitburg played a large role in its defeat.

Fatigue was another contributing factor, according to the coaching staff. Coming off a 40-8 rout at Bad Kreuznach the night before, snow hampered the return trip. The typical two-hour ride home turned into a nearly four-hour marathon. As a result, the team didn't arrive back at Bitburg until 2 a.m. only to face Heidelberg 11 hours later.

The Lady Bearcats of Bad Kreuznach surely would have liked to trade places with Heidelberg. The Lady Bearcats took the court against Bitburg in its final home-court game. The Bad Kreuznach school closes at the end of the current school year.

Despite the blow to the JV squad, the varsity team won its match-ups with both teams - 38-31 against Bad Kreuznach and 42-39 in a stunning come-from-behind victory against Division I Heidelberg.

During first-half varsity action Saturday, the Heidelberg Lady Lions dominated the inside game against a tired Lady Barons

team. Despite the poor showing, Bitburg only trailed by six points.

Not much changed in the ensuing third quarter as the Lady Barons entered the final period still down by six. A rejuvenated Bitburg team shocked the Lady Lions in the fourth, outscoring Heidelberg 18-9 to pull out the win.

It was the second time in as many weeks the Lady Barons varsity squad scored victories over bigger Division I teams.

Bitburg returns to Division II play tonight and Saturday when it hosts the Supreme Allied Powers Europe Lady Spartans in its final home games of the season. Games take place on the Bitburg Middle School court:

■Today - 4 p.m. JV girls, 5:30 p.m. JV boys, 7 p.m. varsity girls and 8:30 p.m. varsity boys.

■Saturday - 10 a.m. JV girls, 11:30 a.m. JV boys, 1 p.m. varsity girls and 2:30 p.m. varsity boys.

Varsity combined box score

Wesley Canada 22 points 11 rebounds 7 steals 0 assists, Constance Mazel 17 5 5 3, Crystal Bessler 16 4 1 0, Kimberly McElear (only game only) 15 3 4 4, Brittany Sanders 3 9 2 0, Katie Carr 6 4 4 0.

Junior varsity combined box score

Janise Rus 22 6 11 0, Jessica Wood 13 4 6 2, Katie Carr 12 12 10 1, Queenessa Bush 6 6 3 1, Denechia Roberson 4 6 1 0, Chelsea Gravan 4 4 1 0, Laura Piccolo 4 3 1 0, Miranda Lavey 2 1 2 0, Alisha Bush 1 1 0 0, Jennifer Redfoot 0 0 3 0, Andrea Drake 2 1 1 0.